

Adding a Switched Outlet

With just a handful of hardware and an hour of work, you can add a switched outlet to any power tool.



Turning a power tool on and off is easy right? Just flip the switch. Unfortunately, it's not always convenient or even easy to access a switch quickly — especially on a hand-held router that's been mounted in a table.

I found this out on the Stow-Away Router Table in Issue No. 71. To solve this problem, I added a switched outlet to the side of the table. With a switched outlet that's positioned for easy access, you won't have to worry about finding

the on/off switch — especially if you need to get to it in a hurry.

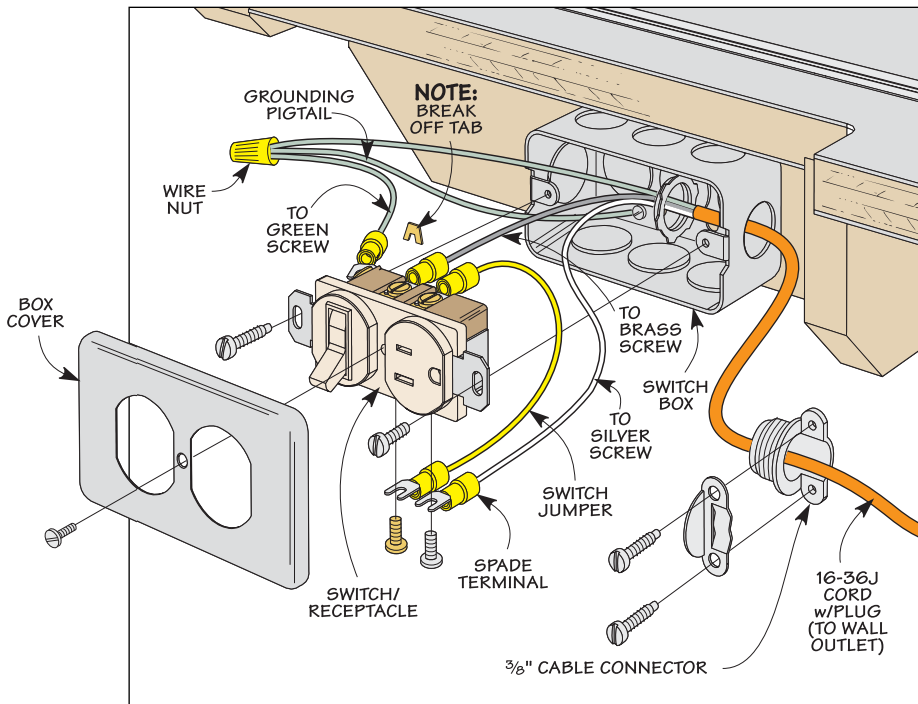
Wire the Switch – At first glance, you might think that adding a switched outlet isn't a task for a woodworker. But it's not that difficult. All you need to do is run a length of electrical cord (with a plug wired on one end) between a wall outlet and a switch/receptacle, like you see in the drawing below.

The hardware you'll need to do this is detailed in the Electrical Hardware box at the lower right.

Note: The switched outlet I purchased also came with its own set of wiring instructions.

Once you've wired the switched outlet, just plug the power cord from the tool into the receptacle and you're all set. Note: You'll need to leave the switch on the power tool in the "on" position.

One last thing. If you're at all uncomfortable working with electricity, you may want to locate a qualified electrician to wire the switch for you. ⚡



Electrical Hardware

- (1) 15 Amp., 120 Volt Switch/Receptacle
- (1) Switch Box
- (6) No. 8 Spade Terminals (16/14 ga.)
- (2) Grounding Pigtails (12 ga.)
- (1) Switch Jumper (12 ga.)
- (1) 3/8" Cable Connector
- (1) Wire Nut Connector (Yellow)
- (2) #8 x 5/8" Ph Sheet Metal Screws
- (1) Duplex Box Cover
- (1) 15 Amp., 125 Volt Plug (Grounded)
- (1) 16-35J Electric Cord (Variable Length)